

Woodbridge Urban District Council.

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Annual Report  
OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

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1956





Eden Lodge,  
Woodbridge,  
Suffolk.

September, 1957.

The Chairman and Councillors,  
Woodbridge Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present herewith my annual report for the year 1956, dealing with the general health of the population of Woodbridge and with such matters of hygiene and sanitation as may influence the health of the community.

I would like to thank the Council and Officials for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. H. Imrie,  
Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health

C. H. Imrie, T.D.,

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

G. Ogden, M.R.San.I., M.A.P.H.I.

A. STATISTICS

1. Summary of General Statistics

Area of District in Acres . . . . .	1097.
Number of inhabited houses (approx.) . . . . .	2008.
Rateable value of District . . . . .	£71,908. 0. 0.
Product of Penny Rate . . . . .	£286. 0. 0.

## 2. Summary of Vital Statistics

1945 to 1956  
- - - - -

	<u>1942</u>	<u>1943</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>
Estimated Population	4718	4998	5101	6450	5380	5340	5413	5448	5432	5510	5540	5590
Birth Rate	17.4	17.4	17.8	13.3	18.7 (99)	19.2 (80)	15.1 (82)	15.6 (85)	16.75 (91)	18.7 (103)	15.7 (87)	12.7 (71)
Still Birth Rate	0.85	0.4	0.19	0.40	nil	0.93 (5)	nil	0.36 (2)	nil	28.3 (3)	11.3 (1)	nil
Death Rate	14.6	10.7	13.3	13.2	14.3 (87)	11.3 (80)	12.4 (67)	11.0 (60)	11.9 (65)	13.25 (73)	12.4 (69)	13.7 (77)
Infantile Death Rate	24.4	51.5	21.9	23.2	50.4 (5)	37.5 (5)	48.7 (4)	11.7 (1)	21.9 (2)	67.96 (7)	11.4 (1)	nil

### Note:

Infantile Death Rate is the rate per 1,000 live births -  
the other rates are per 1,000 population.

The Still Birth rate is the rate per 1,000 live and  
still births.

Figures in brackets are the actual numbers.

Analysis of Vital Statistics

Rate per 1000  
population  
England & Wales

Adjusted  
Rate for  
comparison

Rate per 1000  
population

Total

Female

Male

a. Live Births

Legitimate  
Illegitimate

32  
2

34  
3

71

12.7

15.7

b. Still Births

Legitimate  
Illegitimate

-  
-

-  
-

-

-

23.0

c. Deaths all  
Ages

Deaths all  
Ages

37

40

77

13.7

11.7

d. Deaths under  
1 year of age

Deaths under  
1 year of age

-

1

1

-

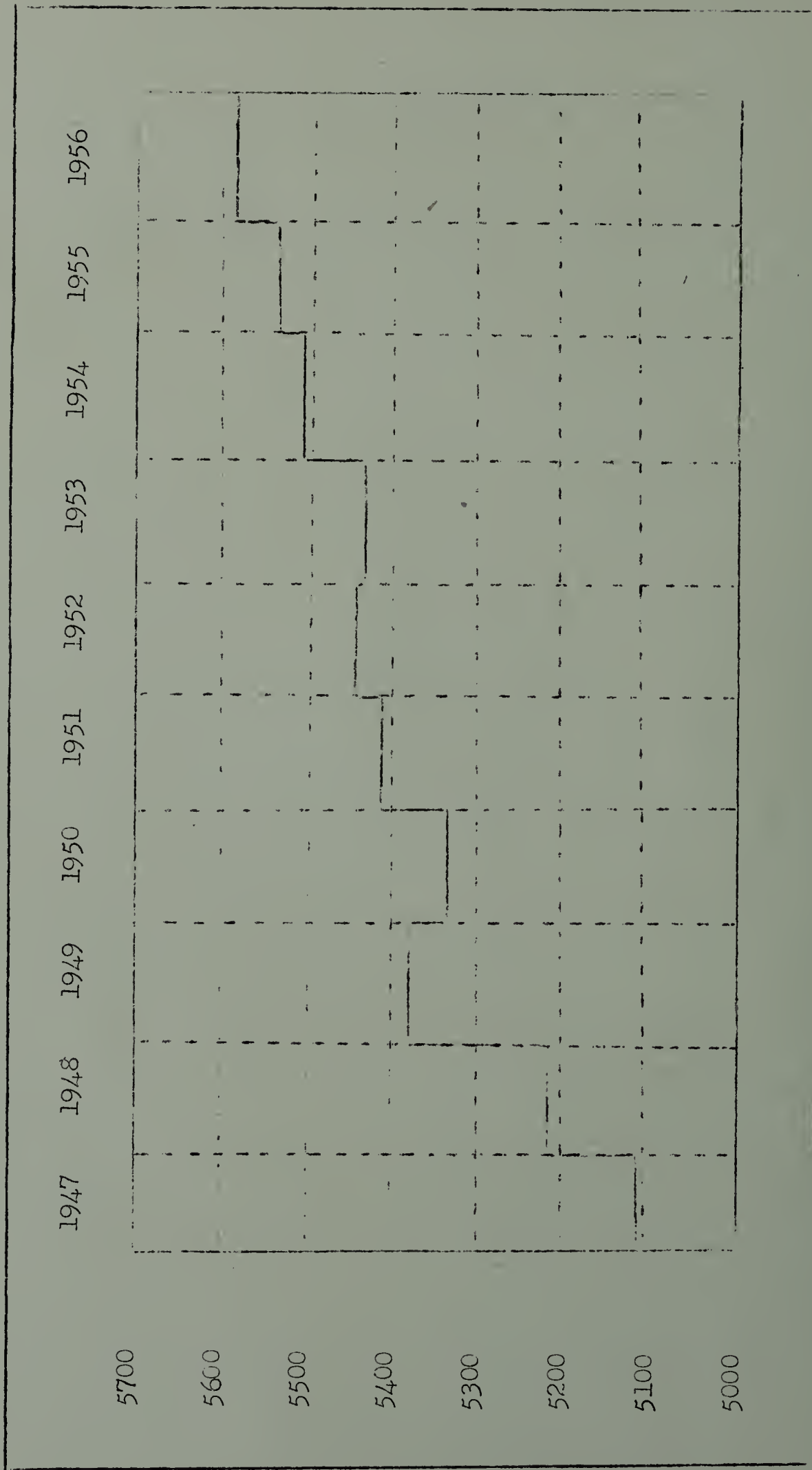
23.8

Causes of Death

<u>Code</u> <u>No:</u>	<u>Disease</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1956</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1955</u>
1.	Tuberculosis respiratory	-	-	-	1
2.	Tuberculosis other	-	-	-	-
3.	Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-	1
4.	Diphtheria	-	-	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	-	-	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	1
8.	Measles	-	-	-	-
9.	Other infective & parasitic diseases	-	-	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm stomach	1	1	2	1
11.	Malignant neoplasm lung bronchus	1	1	2	2
12.	Malignant neoplasm breast	-	-	-	1
13.	Malignant neoplasm uterus	-	-	-	1
14.	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	4	6	10	9
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	1	1	-
16.	Diabetes	-	-	-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	-	5	8
18.	Coronary disease angina	6	4	10	7
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	2	2
20.	Other heart disease	6	12	18	11
21.	Other circulatory diseases	-	3	3	2
22.	Influenza	2	-	2	3
23.	Pneumonia	-	2	2	1
24.	Bronchitis	2	3	5	2
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1	2
27.	Gastritis and diarrhoea	-	1	1	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-	-	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-	1
30.	Pregnancy childbirth	-	-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	-	-	-	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	2	4	8
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	2	1	3	1
34.	All other accidents	3	2	5	-
35.	Suicide	-	-	-	2
36.	Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-	-
		<u>37</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>68</u>



Graph showing fluctuation of Population over 10 years





Comment on Statistics

Population: The gradual rise in population which began at the end of the war - continues. The size of the yearly increase is small, however, and does not suggest any considerable movement of population into or out of the district. See graph on page 6.

Births: The number of births in 1956 (71) was the lowest since the war and the Birth Rate, as might be expected, was well below the general Birth Rate for England and Wales.

Deaths: The number of deaths (77) was the highest since 1950, while the Death Rate, after weighting for comparison is only just short of the general figure for England and Wales.

Stillbirths and Infantile Deaths: It is satisfactory to record that during 1956 there were no Stillbirths or Infantile Deaths in the District.

The pattern of causes of death follows closely that of the previous year. There were no deaths from infectious diseases including Tuberculosis, but deaths from accidents (8) was much higher than in the previous year. Of this number, three were the result of road traffic accidents, while the remainder were mainly due to mishaps in the home.

Most accidents are the result of carelessness, lack of attention and forethought or ignorance, and are consequently preventable. It is, however, difficult to suggest a really effective way of tackling this problem. Propaganda of various forms probably does some good in educating the public and making them Safety minded, but it can never wholly eliminate carelessness and inattention.

Infectious Disease

## Notifications Received

	<u>Age</u>									
<u>Disease</u>	<u>1</u> to <u>2</u>	<u>3</u> to <u>4</u>	<u>5</u> to <u>9</u>	<u>10</u> to <u>14</u>	<u>15</u> to <u>24</u>	<u>25</u> to <u>44</u>	<u>45</u> to <u>64</u>	<u>65</u> & <u>over</u>	<u>age</u> <u>unknown</u>	<u>Total</u>
Scarlet Fever			1		1					2
Whooping Cough	4	2	10	1						17
Poliomyelitis			1							1
Measles	8	5	31	2					1	47
Pneumonia			3		2	3	1	6	1	16
Dysentery		2	1	1	1					5
Food Poisoning						1				1
Puerperal pyrexia					1					1
										90

## Monthly Notifications

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jne</u>	<u>Jly</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Total</u>
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	9	4	3	17
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Measles	-	-	2	2	-	-	3	-	-	21	1	18	47
Pneumonia	3	1	1	2	1	5	-	-	-	2	-	1	16
Dysentery	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
													90

Tuberculosis

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Total</u>
	M	F	M	F	
Number on Register <u>1st January, 1956</u>	13	7	1	2	23
Number of cases notified <u>during the year</u>	-	1	-	1	2
Number restored to <u>Register</u>	-	-	-	-	-
Number added otherwise <u>than by Notification</u>	-	1	-	-	1
Number of cases removed <u>from Register</u>	2	4	1	-	7
Number remaining on Register <u>at 31st December, 1956</u>	11	5	-	3	19

Details of Cases added to Register

<u>Age</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Location of Disease</u>
23	F	Housewife	Pulmonary
24	F	Housewife	Pulmonary
69	F	Housewife	Non-Pulmonary

Cases Removed from Register

5 - Recovered  
2 - Moved to another District

### Notifiable Diseases

It will be seen from the table showing the monthly total of notifications received that during 1956 there was a considerable amount of minor infectious disease, none of it, however, amounting to epidemic proportions. In spite of this, however, there were no deaths from infectious causes.

The number of notified cases on the Tuberculosis register fell during the year from 23 to 19.

During the year immunisation of certain age groups of children against Poliomyelitis was started by the County Council as Local Health Authority. It is understood that the response in Woodbridge was good.

Immunisation of infants and young children against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough is also provided.

### Staff

In previous reports I have drawn attention to the ever increasing volume of work with which Mr. Ogden, in his dual capacities of Public Health Inspector and Surveyor, is expected to deal. It has, for several years, been apparent that one person single-handed cannot carry out in adequate detail all the multifarious duties for which he is responsible, and it is natural that many of the time consuming routine inspections should be the first to suffer. This, I feel, is unfortunate as, particularly in the realm of food hygiene, constant supervision is essential to safeguard the well-being of the community.

As I have noted elsewhere in this report, it was decided by the Council that extra assistance of a part-time technical nature should be made available for Slum Clearance. This, however, in no way lightens the heavy load of normal administration routine.



### HOUSING AND SLUM CLEARANCE

During the year the question of dealing with the areas in which a preliminary housing survey had been made previously was pursued further.

The Council decided that a detailed survey should now be made of the Castle Street and Mill Lane areas - as it was felt that these represented the largest and most pressing problem. In this area, lying along the slope of the hill and overlooking the Naverne Brook, most of the houses are grossly sub-standard, are badly arranged and form an area eminently suitable for re-development.

As the time of Mr. Ogden, the Public Health Inspector and Surveyor, was already fully taken up by his normal routine duties, it was decided by the Council to approach the Deben Rural District Council with a view to securing the spare time services of two of their Inspectors to carry out the detailed survey. This was agreed to and the necessary arrangements were put in hand. By the end of the year the position was that while no actual work had taken place on the survey, arrangements were so far advanced that it was anticipated that an early start could be made in 1957.

With regard to re-housing the families displaced from the area when cleared, it was considered that by the time it would be needed, there would be sufficient accommodation in Council housing estates to meet the needs of those displaced.

While there is no evidence of any general overcrowding throughout the district, there exists, especially in the areas under consideration for demolition or clearance, isolated cases in which the circumstances are not satisfactory.

### REFUSE DISPOSAL AND SANITATION

The general sanitary arrangements in the town have not altered materially during the year.

The connection of Food Premises to the Town Drainage system which was decided upon in 1955, was advised wherever practicable, and during the year 7 premises were connected.

The general question of the Woodbridge and Melton Sewerage Scheme was again discussed and alternative plans examined. It is again to be regretted that there is as yet no sign of finality being reached in this most important matter.

FOODFood Premises in District

Bakers	- 7	Grocers	- 8
Butchers	- 7	Green Grocers	- 9
Confectioners	- 9	General Stores	- 11
Dairies	- 2	Pork Butchers	- 2
Fish Mongers	- 4	Hotels & Cafes	- 12
Fish & Chip Shops	- 4		

Food Inspections

The following items were inspected and condemned during the year:-

<u>Tinned food</u>	<u>Meat</u>
6 tins Peas	17 lb. Corned Beef
18 tins Beans	12 lb. Luncheon Meat
3 tins Carrots	3 lb. Spam
7 tins Tomatoes	4 tins Meat
1 tin Soup	7 lb. Beef Steak
5 tins Apricots	1 Steak Pudding
5 tins Plums	24 lb. Lamb
6 tins Cherries	8 lb. Bacon
5 tins Oranges	
5 tins Pears	<u>Fish</u>
5 tins Peaches	
3 tins Fruit Salad	28 lb. Smoked fillet
2 tins Pineapple	15 doz. Fish Cakes
	2 stone Bloaters
	1 tin Sardines
	9 tins Pilchards

Other food

28	lb. Egg Pulp
7	pts. Tinned Milk

Action under Various Acts & Regulations

1956

1. Factories Act, 1937

	<u>On Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Defects</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Factories not employing power	4	3	-	-
Factories employing power	37	18	-	-
	41	21	-	-

Outworkers - Nil on Register

11. National Assistance Act, 1948

No statutory action under Section 47 of this  
Act was considered necessary during the year.



